

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-04

CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 TAR-01 L-02 /088 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9700

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E.O 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: BEEF IMPORT QUOTAS

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND ANDERSON

1. EMBASSY ASKED ON SHORT NOTICE TO COME TO FONOFF AT 1830 HRS
APRIL 24 FOR BRIEFING BY DG
OF ECONAFFAIRS BUREAU. MIYAZAKI.
CONCERNING BEEF QUOTA. AGATT AND FIRST SECRETARY PRICKETT ATTENDED.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BRIEFED TOGETHER, BUT SEPARATE FROM U.S.

2. DG MIYAZAKI IN CAREFULLY WORDED INTRODUCTION SAID HE FELT INFO
WOULD BE USEFUL TO US, THAT WE SHOULD KNOW JAPANESE FARMERS HAVE
BEEN HAVING VERY DIFFICULT TIME, THAT POLITICIANS HAVE BEEN
ANXIOUS TO SATISFY THE PRODUCERS, PRESSURE FROM ORGANIZED GROUPS
SUCH AS COOPERATIVES VERY STRONG AND HENCE EVEN THIS MOVE TO
REOPEN QUOTA NOW MOST DELICATE. UNFORTUNATELY HE HAD NO PREPARED
TEXT TO GIVE US AND NEITHER DID MIN OF AGRICULTURE ABE WHO THEN
MET WITH PRESS TO EXPLAIN THE DECISION. MIYAZAKI EXPLAINED
THAT ABE IN ELABORATING HIS POINTS WOULD DO BEST TO TRY NOT TO
SHOCK JAPANESE FARMERS. MIYAZAKI THEN LISTED THE RELEVANT POINTS
AND SAID HE WOULD TRUST US TO CONVEY HIS THOUGHTS TO WASHINGTON.
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3. RELEVANT POINTS WERE (A) NEW QUOTA FOR IMPORTS WILL BE ALLOCATED
IN JUNE: (B) QUANTITY WILL BE LIMITED TO THAT REQUIRED IN VIEW BEEF
SUPPLY AND DEMAND. NO IDEA HOW MUCH NOW, BUT EXPECTED INITIAL

AMOUNT WOULD BE SMALL WITH EXACT TONNAGE TO BE RELAYED TO US IN DUE COURSE AND PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT. MUST MOVE GRADUALLY AND CAREFULLY IN FIRST STAGE OF REOPENING AND IF ALL GOES WELL TO FOLLOW UP: (C) BEEF THUS IMPORTED WILL BE BOUGHT AND STORED BY LIPC AND GRADUALLY RELEASED TO DOMESTIC MARKET SO AS TO COPE WITH THE EXPECTED INCREASES IN PRICES THIS FALL AND THEREAFTER.

4. AGATT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EXPLANATION OF DECISION, SAID WE OBVIOUSLY HAD HOPED THEY COULD DO SOONER, THAT QUANTITY WOULD BE LARGER THAN IMPLIED AND ANNOUNCED SAAP AND THAT TRADE COULD EVENTUALLY BE LIBERALIZED. MIYAZAKI INDICATED HE HAD TOLD US ALL HE COULD, AGAIN REFERRED TO DELICATE SITUATION AND NEED TO MOVE CAREFULLY.

5. AGATT ASKED ABOUT HOTEL QUOTA. REPLY AFTER DISCUSSION AMONG LARGE GROUP ASSEMBLED INCLUDING YAMADA AND HATA OF MAF WAS THAT HOTEL QUOTA CAN PERHAPS BE ANNOUNCED SEPARATELY AND MAYBE BEFORE THE GENERAL QUOTA. NEXT POINT RAISED WAS IF THE RELEASE OF BEEF BY LIPC WAS TO BE AIMED AT THE MIDDLE OF THE PRICE RANGE AND WAS ASSURED THAT AIM WAS TO RELEASE AT THE MID-RANGE PRICE. IN RESPONSE TO AGATT COMMENT THAT THE SOMEWHAT PUZZLED BY RELATIVELY HIGH BEEF PRICES SET BY GOJ EVEN AS WORLD FEED PRICES MUCH REDUCED, MIYAZAKI SAID THIS WAS SUBJECT WE COULD SPEND MUCH TIME ON.

6. ANY NOTEWORTHY ADDITIONAL POINT THAT PRESS MAY REPORT BASED ON MIN ABE'S BRIEFING TO THEM WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. YOU, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT MINISTERIAL MEETING WITH AUSTRALIA IN CANBERRA SCHEDULED FOR END OF THIS MONTH.
HODGSON

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